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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
BIOGRAPHIC REPORT

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NAME RADESCU, Nicolae (Lt. Gen.)

CASE No. 9039937
DATE 28 August 1950

NATIONALITY Rumanian

BIRTHDATE 30 March 1874
BIRTHPLACE Pihomont, Rumania

PRESENT POSITION President, Rumanian
National Committee

RACE
SEX
MARITAL STATUS Divorced
NAME OF SPOUSE

LOCATION New York City

GEN. OCCUPATION Army officer

CHILDREN One son

EDUCATION

RELIGION

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

LANGUAGES English, French

ATTITUDE TOWARDS: U.S.

HONORS

U.S.S.R.

CAREER:

1926-1928 Military Attache, London.
1928- — Member, Military Household of the Royal Palace.
1941-1944 Interned in concentration camp.
1944 Chief of the General Staff, October - December.
1944-1945 Prime Minister, December 1944 - February 1945.
1945 Under British protection, March - May; subsequently placed under forced domicile.
1946 Escaped from Rumania to Cyprus, 15 June; later went to Lisbon.
1947 Arrived in the United States, November.
1949 President, Rumanian National Committee, 9 May;
Visited Europe, October.

REMARKS:

General Nicolae Radescu, the last legal Prime Minister of Rumania, has been persecuted by both the Fascist and Communist Rumanian regimes. During the German occupation of his country, he was interned in a concentration camp because of his protests against German activity in Rumania. Appointed Prime Minister in December 1944, he was dismissed from this office in February 1945, following pressure by Vishinski on the King; the Groza regime then came into power. Escaping from Rumania in June 1946, Radescu made his way to western Europe, where he became a leader of the Rumanian political emigration.

The central figure in the lengthy and complicated maneuvers leading up to the formation in May 1949 of the Rumanian National Committee, of which he assumed the

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RADESCU, Nicolae (continued)

Remarks (continued)

presidency, General Radescu was reported in 1948 to be apparently more and more willing to work with persons whose motives were open to question; viz. Davila, Tilea, and Nicolae Malaxa. The latter, a wealthy Rumanian industrialist, allegedly the chief pro-Nazi agent in Rumania under King Carol, and afterward one of the chief sustainers of the Iron Guard, was said to be working in close contact with Rumanian Communists.^{2/} Malaxa, who lives in New York, reportedly stated in November 1948 that he was subsidizing General Radescu to the extent of \$5000 monthly.^{3/} It was reported in September 1949 that Radescu had admitted to the Rumanian National Committee that he was subsidized by Malaxa and that the Committee had asked Radescu to cease any relations, political or financial, with Malaxa.^{4/} According to Adriana Georgescu-Cosmovici, a secretary to Radescu when he was Prime Minister, Malaxa terminated his financial support in October 1949 so that while Radescu is President of the Rumanian National Committee, lack of funds renders him completely without power.^{5/}

The Committee has come to be the scene of heated controversies and enmities among its members, and it has been feared that the Committee would split into two groups headed by former Foreign Minister Visoianu and former Minister to Turkey, Cretzianu, on one side, and General Radescu on the other. It is the contention of the so-called political group as represented by the two former ministers that Radescu aims to set up an authoritarian government composed of military men and others without political experience.^{6/} (Radescu is the founder and director of the "Democratic Union of Free Rumanians" which is made up of liberals, former socialists, and Iron Guardists, and in general he is said to have the backing of the Rumanian military class in exile.^{7/}) Radescu, in turn, has charged that Cretzianu has arbitrarily handled a secret Foreign Office fund that was deposited in Switzerland by the Rumanian Government which Cretzianu allegedly refuses to place at the disposal of the Committee. Radescu contends that the political parties care nothing to support the resistance in Rumania and to aid Rumanian emigrants.^{8/} Mme. Georgescu-Cosmovici expressed the opinion that, bound together by the "money power" wielded by Cretzianu, the National Peasant Party is using its representatives abroad to undermine Radescu.^{5/}

Since Visoianu and Cretzianu are fierce opponents of Radescu and cooperate with the National Peasants, the former Rumanian Prime Minister consequently had but two supporters in the National Committee. He therefore has propagandized for an enlargement of the National Committee so as to submerge what he terms the "hostile" majority, repeating his charges that Cretzianu and Visoianu wished to oust him as president and control the Committee; in this respect he has attacked Augustin Popa and Virgil Veniamin (National Peasant leaders) as being under the influence of the former Ministers. Radescu is said to believe that enlarging the membership of the National Committee would compel Cretzianu and Visoianu to surrender the secret Foreign Office fund to the Committee so as to permit widespread distributions to Rumanian exiles.^{8/}

In summary, a recent report attributes the breakdown in the activities in the Rumanian National Committee to these two factors: (1) the unanimous attitude of hostility against General Radescu which has resulted in the desire of the majority of the members that he retire, and Radescu's subsequent refusal to do so, and (2) the refusal of the majority of Committee members to enlarge the National Committee as requested by Radescu.^{9/}

Radescu has been characterized as well-intentioned but old and "naive" by King

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RADESCU, Nicolae (continued)

Remarks (continued)

Michael, who more than once has evidenced concern over Radescu's actions and especially his insistence that Davila and Tilea be included in any Rumanian National Committee. The King also is reported to have criticized Radescu's plan for establishing a comprehensive union representative of all types of Rumanian emigres, including former fascists.^{10/} He has further stated that the former Prime Minister now seems to have forgotten that a short time ago he had been only a "cashiered Army Colonel" and has instead developed delusions of grandeur.^{11/} One report maintains that Michael insisted ~~that~~ Visoianu ~~that he~~ accept the presidency of the Rumanian National Committee, but Visoianu reportedly advised the King that it would be better to appoint Radescu Honorary President so as to give new proof of Royal leniency.^{12/}

In the fall of 1949, Radescu went to Paris reportedly with the intention of summoning a "congress" of Rumanian personalities in order to secure a mandate for the formation of a new Rumanian National Committee that would support his views. He is said to have decided, however, not to convoke his "congress" following the receipt of a message from King Michael instructing him to come to an agreement with the members of the present Committee.^{13/} A more recent report states that Radescu has quit the Committee and has begun to organize another National Committee with the Liberal Party, the Eftimie Gherman Socialist faction, and other personalities that are not members of the three main parties. He is also said to be trying to enlist the cooperation of dissident National Peasant group under the leadership of (fmu) Crehon.^{2/}

No photograph is available in Graphics Register, OCD.

SOURCES:

- 1/ Department of State, Biographic Data Report, Bucharest, 7 May 1946, Confidential.
- 2/ CIA, OOB-2011, 10 March 1948, Confidential.
- 3/ CIA, SO-19173, 24 November 1948, Secret.
- 4/ CIA, SO-28222, 26 September 1949, Secret.
- 5/ CIA, SO-37445, Istanbul, 24 February 1950, Secret/Control-US Officials Only.
- 6/ CIA, SO-37265x, German, Prior to October 1949, Secret/Control-US Officials Only.
- 7/ USFA Special Biweekly Report, #107, 23 December 1949, Part II-Rumania, Confidential.
- 8/ CIA, SO-31497, Rome, October 1949, Secret/Control-US Officials Only.
- 9/ USFA, Special Biweekly Report, #115, 14 April 1950, Confidential.
- 10/ Department of State, T-1123, Bern, 27 August 1948, Confidential.
- 11/ CIA, SODB-23593, Rome, 16 March 1950, Secret/Control-US Officials Only.
- 12/ CIA, SODB-25612, Rome, May 1950, Secret.
- 13/ CIA, SO-30716, 2 November 1949, Secret.

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